



## **Progress Report of UNEP/CMS Office – Abu Dhabi**

### **A. Background**

1. UNEP/CMS Office in Abu Dhabi is funded by the Government of Abu Dhabi and hosted by the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD). The Office services as the Secretariat for the MoU on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia, and the MoU on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range. This includes communication with range states and supporting partners, promotion of conservation projects/programmes, providing technical expertise, and supporting capacity building. The agreements also provide a platform for cooperation among governments and regions to develop and implement conservation measures to ensure the long term survival of the species.

2. The Dugong MoU, which took effect on 31 October 2007, counts currently 18 signatories, and the Birds of Prey MoU, which became effective on 1 November 2008, has 30 signatories (including one supporting International Organization). The UNEP/CMS Office – Abu Dhabi has been actively supporting the implementation of the provisions of the MoUs, facilitating regional programmes especially for marine turtle conservation and coordinating with other conservation initiatives in the Gulf and Red Sea Region, to the greatest extent possible.

3. In addition, the Abu Dhabi Office delivers other CMS programmes in the Western Asia and Indian Ocean areas. Staff members at the Office represent the UNEP/CMS Secretariat in regional meetings of relevance when and where appropriate.

4. Towards achieving these main objectives the Office is taking initiatives to protect migratory species in line with the provisions of the above-mentioned MoUs through presentations and side events organisation. This was enhanced during various Dugong conservation workshops in Phuket (Thailand), Goa (India), Antananarivo (Madagascar) and Abu Dhabi (UAE). The last CBD CoP in Nagoya (Japan) has been a valuable occasion for CMS and its Abu Dhabi Office to raise public awareness on major migratory species' challenges.

### **B. Progress made since last report**

5. The Host Country Agreement has been circulated to the UAE authorities for consultation and review before final signature by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EAD and UNEP. Currently the text is under consideration by Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

6. In the meantime, various challenging tasks for the Office have been launched and/or accomplished, including for example staff recruitment, IT issues, publishing an office brochure, and organising workshops and meetings. (For details kindly refer to the work plan in Annex 2.)

7. Regarding finances, the indicative budget 2009-2011 for UNEP/CMS Office – Abu Dhabi is presented in Table 1 in Annex 1. Apart from other budget lines, US\$ 365,000 represents the Small Grants Programme available for programme implementation of Dugong and BoP MoUs and regional turtle initiatives. Table 2 in Annex 1 is a statement of expenditure for 2010 not yet certified. However, the figures provided through IMIS system show that for almost dugong-related small grant programme expenditures the amount is US\$ 245,519.

**i. Dugong conservation and management: MoU on the Conservation and Management of Dugongs and their Habitats throughout their Range**

8. In accordance with its work plan the UNEP/CMS Office – Abu Dhabi organised the First Official CMS Dugong MoU Signatory State Meeting in Abu Dhabi, 4-6 October 2010. An occasion where governments, International and Non-Governmental Organizations and experts from about 30 countries discussed solutions to protect the world's only herbivorous mammal living in marine waters. The meeting concluded that the conservation strategy should address the need for greater protection of marine biodiversity by combining different conservation tools. At the meeting, Bahrain, Palau, Seychelles, Vanuatu and Yemen signed the CMS Dugong agreement bringing the number of signatories to 18. More countries are likely to follow in the near future. The next Dugong MoU meeting will take place on 2012.

9. A Dugong Catch/Incidental Catch Survey Tool, developed by a group of technical advisors, has produced some quality data from 20 countries in the Pacific Islands, South Asia and the United Arab Emirates. The data will be combined into a geographical information system to identify the trouble spots, provide crucial information on existing populations and map important habitat areas. In 2011, the survey will be extended to Range States in East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean littorals, North West Indian Ocean as well as South Asian regions.

10. Other solutions to protect valuable dugong habitat include establishing spatial closures as marine reserves and temporal constraints to fishing operations. Incentives, such as loans for buying dugong-friendly fishing gear, educational campaigns and measures to improve the livelihood of local communities were also considered as a way to complement conservation efforts. Potential pilot projects will be developed to implement these new incentive based tools – from which other marine species may benefit as well.

11. The UNEP/CMS Abu Dhabi Office will continue to work with the EAD and other partners to identify opportunities for regional collaboration to implement the Conservation and Management Plan for Dugong in Western Indian Ocean Sub-Region.

12. For example, during the 2nd Marine Conservation Forum, Abu Dhabi, UAE, the Office will participate through a side event agreed with the organizer (Emirates Wildlife Society in association with the World Wildlife Fund, EWS-WWF) and group discussions with participants from GCC area, aiming at exploring opportunities for regional cooperation in the implementation of dugong and marine turtle conservation initiatives.

**ii. Conservation of migratory birds of prey: MoU on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia**

13. The contract of Programme Officer - Birds came to end in August 2010, and a new Programme Officer is under recruitment. Until the position is filled, the Executive Coordinator takes on any urgent/pending tasks of the MoU Interim Coordinating Unit (ICU).

14. A Small Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) was established in September 2010 with the Ministry of Environment and Forests of Madagascar, for launching a National Strategy elaboration, more specifically to establish Action Plans for *Falco eleonora* and *Falco concolor* protection.

15. More SSFAs are encouraged for the coming year, such as, but not restraint to the elaboration of a regional plan research strategy on *Falco concolor* monitoring, as well as a UAE national strategy with EAD and a partner.

16. In November 2010 the Signatories to the MoU were requested for comments on a document established by the ICU: *Guidelines for Preparing National or Regional Strategies in the Framework of the MoU on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia*. The guidelines are aiming at assisting in the preparation for the first Meeting of the Signatories to the Birds of Prey MoU.

17. A workshop on the conservation of migratory birds of prey is being scheduled for 2011, depending on the recruitment of the Programme Officer, and the First Meeting of the Signatories to the Birds of Prey MoU envisaged for year 2012. The earlier most of signatories will provide their strategies to the ICU the better determined the meeting date will be.

Annex 1

Table 1: Indicative budget 2009-2011 for UNEP/CMS Office – Abu Dhabi

Budget Item	2009 US\$	2010 US\$	2011 US\$	Total
Staff	548,586	837,443	837,443	2,223,472
Travel on official mission	15,000	30,000	30,000	75,000
Small Grants Programme	50,000	150,000	165,000	365,000
Meetings	80,000	155,000	195,000	430,000
Equipment & Premises	25,000	15,000	10,000	50,000
Miscellaneous	10,000	17,815	14,554	42,369
Total	728,586	1,205,258	1,251,997	3,185,841
Programme Support Cost (PSC), 13%	94,714	156,685	162,760	414,159
GRAND TOTAL	823,300	1,361,943	1,414,757	3,600,000

Table 2: Unofficial statement of expenditure 2010 for UNEP/CMS Office – Abu Dhabi

Item	Expenditure* as on July 2010, US\$	Expenditure* as on Nov 2010, US\$
Staff costs	416,162.51	563,953.54
Mission costs	27,686.86	54,953.73
Small Grants Programme	239,019.00	245,519.00
Meetings	-	174,123.02
In-service training	31,508.96	31,508.96
Expendable Equipment	2,345.67	2,400.99
Operation & Maintenance	8,790.75	8,790.75
Total Expenditure	725,513.75	1,081,249.99
Programme Support Cost (PSC), 13%	94,316.80	140,562.50
Total	819,830.55	1,221,812.49

\* Total commitment

**WORK PLAN**  
as on November 2010

TASK	RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	STATUS/COMMENTS
➤ STAFF RECRUITMENT			
1. Administrative and Finance Assistant	UNEP/UNON/Bonn		Interviews completed; appointment ongoing.
2. Programme Officer - Birds	UNEP/UNON/Bonn		In process; job opening under advertisement.
3. Programme Assistant	UNEP/UNON/Bonn		In process; planning for interviews.
➤ STAFF SECURITY/RESIDENCE PERMITS, ETC.			
4. Communication of personal details to UNDSS in Dubai	Head of Office	ongoing	Done.
5. Issuance of Staff Residence authorization/permit	Head of Office	ongoing	Done (via UNDP).
➤ COMMUNICATION/ IT ISSUES & PREMISES			
6. Internet connection high speed for Office	EAD & UNEP Office		Done.
7. Networking and Office shared folders	EAD & UNEP Office		Done.
8. Determine office space & other requirements in new premises	EAD & UNEP Office		Settled in new premises since November 2009. Office space and other requirements discussed with EAD prior to move to new building.
➤ DONOR AGREEMENT (DA) & HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENT (HCA)			
9. Circulation of the draft	Head of UNEP/CMS Abu Dhabi (HO)		Done.
10. Follow up	HO	ongoing	
11. Clearance by UN OLA	DEL/C/HO/CMS	ongoing	Done – HCA sent to EAD for consultation and final text to be signed by MOFA, EAD and UNEP.
12. Letter(s) by UNEP to MOFA & EAD	DEL/C		Done.
13. Signature of the Donor Agreement	EAD/UNEP		DONE – DA signed during visit of CMS Officer-In-Charge on 12 October, on behalf of UNEP.
14. Signature of the Host Country Agreement	EAD/UNEP/MOFA	ongoing	Follow up with EAD done. HCA text under consideration by MOFA.

TASK	RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	STATUS/COMMENTS
☞ GENERAL STAFF TRAINING & INDIVIDUAL WORK PROGRAMMES (ePAS)			
15. Drafting Individual work programmes (ePAS)	All new staff	ongoing	Done.
☞ NOTIFICATION TO RANGE STATES & PARTNERS			
16. Designing brochure on the Office and its objectives	All		Done – published in September 2010.
☞ WEBSITE			
17. Build up and maintain a website in cooperation with CMS secretariat	HO/All	ongoing	Dugong MoU website updated; Raptors MoU website update planned.
☞ CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES			
➔ PROGRAMME OF WORK – BIRDS OF PREY			
18. Start working with Signatory States on their strategies	POB/All	Q4 2010	Done – Guidelines for national/regional strategies elaborated by the Interim Coordinating Unit; Notification sent 1 November 2010 to signatories for possible comments on the pre-final version by 30 November.
19. Priority focus on UAE's Strategy elaboration (support)	HO(POB)	Q2 2011	Done – Regional project where EAD is involved under discussion with a partner, with a possible Strategy as an outcome.
20. Organise workshop on strategies & monitoring BoP	POB/All	ongoing	Postponed until a new POB is appointed.
21. Follow up on Saker Falcon issues and progress	HO(POB)/CMS	Q1 2010	Done – Status of Saker falcon discussed by 16 <sup>th</sup> CMS Scientific Council, June 2010.
22. Prepare & organize the first Meeting of Signatories	POB/All	Q1-Q4 2012	Planning to be established upon POB appointment and coordinated with 2 <sup>nd</sup> Signatory State Meeting of Dugong MoU.
23. Assure getting ¾ signatory strategies and documents	HO(POB)/All	Q2 2011	Under process; hopefully accelerated following appointment of the new POB.
24. Prepare awareness material on MoU objectives & activities	POB/All	Q3 2011	POB to take the lead following his/her appointment.
25. Organise awareness & capacity building events in Abu Dhabi	POB/All	Q4 2011	POB to take the lead and coordinate with EAD & HO following his/her appointment.

TASK	RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	STATUS/COMMENTS
26. Organise workshops (with BLI or EURAPMON Network)	POB/All	Q3 2011	Following appointment of new POB, to determine with HO the best timing and resources.
27. Review status of species in cooperation with BLI	POB	Q2-Q3	New POB to assist in analyzing any new listing proposals done by CMS Parties on Birds of Prey matter for CMS COP10 consideration.
28. Determine & implement small grant projects with Range States	HO(POB)/All	ongoing	Process started with one Signatory State, under implementation. New POB to pursue communicating with Range States.
29. Coordinate and establish a work programme with CITES/Traffic	POB/All	ongoing	Act in the general WP between CMS and CITES.
30. Promote the agreement membership & support	POB/All	ongoing	Done - POB to prepare letters to Range States' representations and selected International/National Organisations. Follow up.
31. Build up a strategy for fundraising and networking	POB	Q2 2012	HO & POB to take the lead. Seek First Signatory Meeting guidance.
32. Collaborate with other bird species conservation instruments under CMS auspices	POB/All	ongoing	Seek work harmonization, mutual representation and/or implementation with existing and new agreements within Asia & Pacific region, including AEWa, where possible.
<b>→ PROGRAMME OF WORK - DUGONGS</b>			
33. Follow up on key action points of the informal meeting of Signatory States, Bali, August 2008	POD/All		Done – synergies with IOSEA, awareness, transboundary projects, use of voluntary contributions
34. Follow up on Conservation priorities identified by the Bali 2008 meeting (Annex 4 of the report)	POD/All	Q4 2009 - Q4 2010	Done – POD to sort out priorities with Signatories & Non-Signatories, and seek resources.
35. Provide guidance to Range States for small grant projects	POD/All	ongoing	Done – POD to diffuse and use CMS criteria for projects selection.
36. Determine & implement small grant projects with Range States	POB/All	ongoing	POD to communicate with Range States.
37. Prepare and organize the first Meeting of Signatories	POD/All	Q4 2009 - Q4 2010	Done.
38. Follow up on key action points of the first Meeting of Signatories	POD/All	ongoing	Under process.
39. Focus on UAE's Programme/Strategy for dugong conservation (support)	POD/All	ongoing	Done – Mutual cooperation between Dugong MoU Unit and EAD/Biodiversity Department is excellent .

TASK	RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	STATUS/COMMENTS
40. Build up a Programme for the sub-region with UAE	POD/All	Q2-Q4 2010	Dugong conservation Programme for the Indian ocean, Arab and East African region.
41. Seek resources for the sub-regional Programme with UAE	POD/All	Q3 2010 onwards	Contacts are continues with local and regional partners underway. POD/HO to continue.
42. Build up a Programme of Work with IGOs/ NGOs Network and other relevant initiatives e.g. CTI	POD/All	ongoing	POD to link with IGOs/NGOs concerned by dugongs conservation in Signatory and Non-Signatory States.
43. Organise workshops/meetings on dugongs research & monitoring	POD/All	ongoing	Done – details on organised workshops/meetings on <a href="http://www.cms.int/species/dugong/dugong_noticeboard.htm">http://www.cms.int/species/dugong/dugong_noticeboard.htm</a>
44. Promote the agreement membership & support	POD/All	ongoing	Done – POD to prepare letters to Range States representations and selected International/National Organisations & follow up.
45. Build up a strategy for fundraising and networking	POD/All	ongoing	Started.
46. Collaborate with other marine species conservation instruments under CMS auspices and other regional organisations	POD/All	ongoing	Ongoing – exemplary work harmonization is done with SPREP and IOSEA, to include also recent shared effort of funding for a CMS Officer in SPREP to facilitate the Joint Programme of Work on CMS Related Activities in the Pacific Islands Region.
47. Represent CMS when requested in Asia and Pacific region	POD	ongoing	Done at many occasions, including the last side event on behalf of CMS at CBD COP, Nagoya, Japan, October 2010. Will be continued where and when requested.
<b>→ MARINE TURTLE</b>			
48. Coordinate with IOSEA Secretariat to support the West Indian Ocean sub-region, including developing a programme of work with IGOs/ NGOs Network and other relevant initiatives e.g. CTI	PODt	ongoing	Under process - PODt is liaising with IOSEA Secretariat.
49. Build up a Programme and seek resources for the West Indian Ocean sub-region with UAE	PODt/All	ongoing	PODt to liaise with EAD following the outcomes of the First Signatory State meeting, Abu Dhabi, October 2010.
50. Collaborate with other marine species conservation instruments under CMS auspices for work harmonization and mutual representation	PODt/All	ongoing	Done - See status and comments under point 46.
51. Coordinate with IOSEA Secretariat with regards to relevant meetings	PODt		PODt to liaise with IOSEA Secretariat.

TASK	RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	STATUS/COMMENTS
☛ REPRESENTATION AT INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS			
52. 18 <sup>th</sup> Biennial Marine Mammals Conference, Quebec, Canada, 10-17 October 2009	POD		Attended
53. 20 <sup>th</sup> SPREP Senior Officials Meeting, Apia, Samoa, 17 November 2009	POD		Attended
54. 30 <sup>th</sup> Sea Turtle Symposium, Goa, India, 26-29 April 2010	POD		Attended
55. 16 <sup>th</sup> CMS Scientific Council Meeting, Bonn, Germany, 28-30 June 2010	HO		Attended
56. 24 <sup>th</sup> International Congress for Conservation Biology, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, 3-7 July 2010	POD		Attended
57. 21 <sup>st</sup> SPREP Meeting, Madang, Papua New Guinea, 6-10 September 2010	POD		Attended
58. First Official Signatory State Meeting of the Dugong MoU, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 4-6 October 2010	POD/All		Attended
59. COP10 Convention on Biological Diversity, Nagoya, Japan, 18-29 October 2010	POD		Attended
60. 37 <sup>th</sup> CMS Standing Committee Meeting, Bonn, Germany, 23-24 November 2010	HO		
61. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Marine Conservation Forum, 14-16 December 2010, Abu Dhabi, UAE	POD		POD planning a presentation on how to develop/ implement dugong/turtle projects in the GCC region.
62. 11 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Arab Team (League of Arab States), Cairo, Egypt, 19-21 December 2010	HO		At the Arab Team request, HO will present CMS in terms of windows of opportunities and actions in the Arab Region and possibilities for a capacity building programme.
☛ ACRONYMS: UNEP = United Nations Environment Programme; UNON = United Nations Office in Nairobi; UNDP = United Nations Development Programme; CMS = Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals; UNV = United Nations Volunteers (in Bonn); UN OLA = United Nations Office mandated for texts clearance ; MOFA = Ministry of Foreign Affairs, United Arab Emirates; EAD = Environment Agency –Abu Dhabi; DELC = Division of Environment Law and Conventions of UNEP; Q1-Q4 = Quarters; POD = Programme Officer – Dugongs; PODt = Programme Officer – Dugongs, involved in facilitating Marine Turtle conservation by relevant bodies within the sub-region; POB = Programme Officer – Birds of Prey; GS = General Staff; APO = Associate Programme Officer			